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FOREIGN NOTES

MAUMBURY RINGS CIRCLE

Mr H. St John Gray contributes to the *London Times* of December 26 a full account of excavations in the Maumbury Rings Circle, of which he was in charge. Of the work, *Nature* for December 31 says: "This has long been regarded as the site of a Roman amphitheater, and this view is corroborated by the fact that one of the most interesting discoveries made was that of a stratum of shell fragments, quartz, flint, land-shells, etc., similar to that used by the Romans in other places to fill up uneven patches, to prevent the slipping of the gladiators, and to absorb the blood of combatants. Fragments of pottery also indicate Roman occupancy, and one portion of the site seems to have been fortified, holes for stakes cut in slabs of Purbeck limestone having been found at the point where the entrance of the arena was situated. It is interesting to find that this place was occupied by the Neolithic people as a flint workshop. Flint flakes, cores, and hammer-stones were found scattered on part of the site, and the picks made of deers' antlers were obviously the implements by which this early race excavated the remarkable pit whence the rough flints were obtained. This pit is at least 30 feet deep, one of the deepest archaeological excavations on record, one of those at Grime's Grave being a few feet deeper. It is much to be desired that a site which seems to have been almost continuously occupied since Neolithic times by various peoples should be fully investigated, and it may be hoped that the appeal for help issued by Mr Gray from Taunton Castle, Somerset, may be with a liberal response."

IMPERIAL BUREAU OF ANTHROPOLOGY FOR THE BRITISH EMPIRE

The present status of the project to establish an Imperial Bureau of Anthropology for the British Empire is ably presented by Dr A. C. Haddon in *Nature* for March 18, as follows:

"For many years past those who have appreciated the practical value of ethnology in the administration of our Empire have realized the necessity of a central organization for the registration and coördination of data collected by Government officials or others, for the giving of advice to those about to reside or travel in India or the colonies, and to serve as a central office where those at home could obtain trustworthy information concern-

ing the various races and peoples that collectively constitute the British Empire. At the Liverpool meeting of the British Association in 1896, Mr C. H. Read, of the British Museum, proposed the foundation of a bureau of this nature. In his presidential address to the anthropological section at the Dover meeting, three years later, he announced that the trustees of the British Museum had undertaken the working of the bureau under his own supervision, if the Treasury would make a small yearly grant. Owing to lack of adequate support very little has been accomplished to render effective Mr Read's laudable endeavor.

"The need for such an establishment has been increasingly felt. Thanks to the zeal of Prof. W. Ridgeway of Cambridge, the president of the Royal Anthropological Institute, the matter has again been taken up. He drew up a memorial which has been signed by a large number of influential persons in all departments of activity, statesmen, eminent administrators of India and the colonies, members of Parliament, merchants, students of all branches of the humanities, anthropologists, and many others. The memorial refers to the utility of anthropology in other departments of intellectual and practical life; for example, several of our distinguished administrators, both in India and the colonies, have pointed out that most of the mistakes made by officials in dealing with natives are due to lack of training in the rudiments of ethnology, primitive sociology, and primitive religion. Nor is it only for the administrator that training in anthropology and facility for its further study are important. For purposes of commerce it is of vital necessity that the manufacturer and the trader should be familiar with the habits, customs, arts, and tastes of the natives of the country with which, or in which, they carry on their business. The Germans have long since seen the value of such a training; they have spent, and are spending, large sums annually in promoting the study of the ethnology of all parts of the world, and their remarkable success in trade in recent years, not only with primitive and barbaric races, but also in China and Japan, is largely due to this fact.

"The training of young officials is a matter of national importance, and there is evidence that some of our leading administrators are fully alive to its value. Recently, Sir Reginald Wingate addressed a letter to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in which he asked whether those universities were prepared to give instruction in ethnology and primitive religion to probationers for Sudan Civil Service; the Oxford Anthropological Committee and the Cambridge Board of Anthropological Studies at once replied in the affirmative, and courses of instruction in those subjects have already commenced. No provision has as yet been

made anywhere for the training of schoolmasters and medical officers in anthropometry, to fit them to take measurements of school children and Army recruits. Yet this branch of anthropology is one of highest importance, not simply for scientific reasons, but because of its practical bearing on the great question of physical deterioration, which has long engaged the attention of anthropologists and the medical profession, and has lately been discussed in Parliament.

"The memorial urges the establishment in London of a bureau in which all the distinguished anthropologists of the kingdom could meet on common ground, as do all the leading mathematicians, physicians, chemists, and biologists in the Royal Society. All the elements of such a bureau already exist in the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. This bureau would collect information respecting the ethnology, institutions, arts, religion, and laws of all races, especially of those in the British Empire, and it would publish the notes sent in by observers in all parts of the world, issuing these in the form of bulletins. The bureau might confer a diploma on officials, scientific travellers, and others who had submitted to a proper test of their distinction in some branch of anthropology, and it would approve for certificates schoolmasters and others who had shown themselves competent to make anthropometrical observations in the examinations held under the direction of the bureau. In view of the services which such a bureau would render to the nation, 'we respectfully petition His Majesty's Government to make an annual grant of 500*l.* to the Royal Anthropological Institute for carrying out the scheme set forth, and also to grant a suitable set of rooms in the Imperial Institute.'

"It is not proposed that the teaching of ethnology should form part of the work of the bureau. For many years past instruction has been given in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in various departments of anthropology. In the University of London are the only two professors of sociology in the kingdom, and instruction has also been given in ethnology for several years, and the University of Liverpool has a professor of social anthropology. Thus, although most of the teaching appointments are financially starved and work under unfavorable conditions, the foundations have been laid for anthropological instruction in several of our universities.

"On March 12 the Prime Minister received an influential deputation at the House of Commons, which presented to him the memorial urging the Government to establish an Imperial Bureau of Anthropology in connection with the Royal Anthropological Institute. Professor Ridgeway

pointed out that the science of anthropology could be of the highest possible service to the State in the training of Colonial and Indian administrators, and that it was also a necessity for commercial success. Sir Edward Candy said, in reply to the Prime Minister, that he would make anthropology a compulsory subject.

“The Prime Minister said that he entirely agreed that anthropology was becoming every year more and more, not only an important, but an indispensable branch of knowledge, not merely for scholars, but for persons who were going to undertake the work of administration in an Empire like ours, whether in India or in Crown Colonies. While he would hesitate to express anything like a considered and final opinion as to whether anthropology ought to be included as a compulsory subject for examination, he was quite satisfied that it was highly desirable that it should become a regular subject of study, and enter into the normal equipment of young men who went to the outlying regions of the Empire and encountered strange conditions of life. He did not, however, hold out anything like an assurance, or even an expectation, that the pecuniary grant they had asked for would be accorded. Evidently he feared that other learned societies might also urge their claims for Government support, but he did not appear to realize that a grant for a bureau is on a different footing from one merely to a society as such. The need for a bureau of ethnology is urgent, and it should be remembered that to equip a bureau as an independent body would be much more expensive than affiliating it with a society which already possesses the nucleus of the requisite organization. It is to be hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be generous to this scheme, which is certainly one of national importance.

“An additional argument for the establishment of the bureau is to be found in the Sargent prize essay by the Rev. H. A. Junod, on ‘The best means of preserving the traditions and customs of the various South African native races’ (Report South African Association for the Advancement of Science, 1907 [1908], p. 142). The Rev. H. A. Junod is a sympathetic missionary who is well known for his studies on the ethnology of the Ba-ronga. In this essay he points out how the old lore is passing out of remembrance or becoming modified, and he adds, ‘What is wanted is a central agency which would receive the materials collected by people on the spot and publish them in a way which would make them available for science at large. There ought to be created without delay a South African Anthropological Commission, which would answer to the need just pointed out.’ It would be a credit to South Africa if the scheme

outlined by M. Junod could be carried out, and all such local enterprises should be affiliated with a central bureau in London."

NEGROID CHARACTERS IN EGYPT

Mr Charles S. Myers finds (*Journal Anthropological Institute*, vol. xxxvii, Jan.-June, 1908, pp. 99-147) that the cause of the increase of negroid characters among the Moslems and Copts of Egypt as one proceeds from the Mediterranean toward the First cataract, is due to environment and not to race mixture. Mr Myers' extended investigations of the anthropology of Egypt show that the prevalent idea that Caucasian and negroid races have constituted the Egyptian population from the most ancient times to the present is unfounded. He says: "Our new anthropometric data favor the view which regards the Egyptians always as a homogeneous people who have varied now toward Caucasian, now toward negroid characters (according to environment), showing such close anthropometric affinity to Libyan, Arabian, and like neighboring peoples, showing such variability and possibly such power of absorption, that from the anthropometric standpoint no evidence is obtainable that the modern Egyptians have been appreciably affected by other than sporadic Sudanese admixture."

W. H.

NEEDLE-CASE FROM GRINNELL LAND

After the publication of my paper on the Eskimo of Baffin land and Hudson bay (vol. xv, pt. 2, *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*), I found, on looking over some of my old sketches, that a needle-case of the same type as that described on page 433 of the publication cited is in the collections of the British Museum. I am obliged to the courtesy of Mr Read for a drawing of the specimen, which is here reproduced. The object was found at Rawlings bay, on the west coast of the Smith Sound region, in a district now uninhabited. It will be observed that the specimen resembles most closely the two needle-cases represented in figure 234, *d* and *e*, of the publication cited. The general shape is almost identical with the specimen from Southampton island (fig. 234, *e*), from which, however, it differs in being ornamented with incised designs. The spur lines at the top and bottom differ from those of most of the other specimens in having the spurs placed in the same direction, not pointed toward one another. The type differs some-

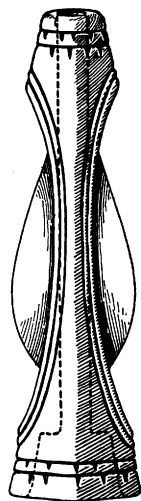


FIG. 16. — Bone needle-case from Rawlings bay, Smith Sound region. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

what from the modern type of Smith sound, but I do not think that too much stress should be laid on this point, since some of the specimens from Southampton island show also a considerable variation in type which makes them in a way more similar to the Smith Sound specimens. The specimen here described shows that the distribution of this type of needle-case extended from the large islands of Hudson bay northward over Grinnell land to north Greenland.

FRANZ BOAS.

PERUVIAN MANUSCRIPT DISCOVERY

In a recent communication to the *Königliche Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften* in Göttingen, Doctor Richard Peitschmann announces the discovery, among the manuscript treasures of the Royal Library of Copenhagen, of a most valuable Peruvian picture manuscript of date 1587. It bears the mongrel Spanish title of *Nueva Corónica y Buen Gobierno*, numbers 1179 quarto pages, and deals chiefly with the history, religion, and social conditions of ancient Peru, particularly at the period of the conquest. It is written in a curious mixture of Kichua and jargon Spanish, and is the work of Don Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala, a native of the highest imperial Inca stock. The numerous pictures indicate a remarkable development of native art. It is the intention of Doctor Peitschmann to make early publication of the entire manuscript, for which he has received the willing permission of the library authorities.

JAMES MOONEY.